

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 IO-10

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R 051203Z JUN 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8985

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 721

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, GATT, EEC

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE IWC
PREP GROUP

REF: A) LONDON 8172 B) LONDON 8145 C) GENEVA 3992

D) GENEVA 4038

1. BEGIN SUMMART: WE EXPLAINED TO PIZZUTI AND HIJZEN
THE NEED FOR MOVING AHEAD ON THE LONDON PREP GROUP WORK.
PIZZUTI LINKED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DATES FOR THE NEXT
MEETING WITH ELABORATION OF A WORK PROGRAM FOR THE GENEVA
MTN GRAINS GROUP. HIJZEN SAID THAT HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THESE
MATTERS INSIDE THE COMMISSION LATER THIS WEEK IN AN EFFORT
TO AVOID AN ACRIMONIOUS PROCEDURAL STALEMETE AND MATTER ALSO
DISCUSSED WITH RABOT. END SUMMARY.

2. ON RECEIPT OF REFTELS A AND B WE MET WITH PIZZUTI, COMMISSION
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE, AND JACQUOT TO POINT
OUT THE STRONG US VIEW THAT THE WORK AT LONDON SHOULD PROCEED

RAPIDLY AND THAT THE COMMUNITY'S REFUSAL TO AGREE TO A DATE JUST SUBSEQUENT TO THE IWC WAS NOT HELPFUL NOR REASONABLE. PIZZUTI RESPONDED THAT THE REASON FOR THE COMMUNITY'S FAILURE TO AGREE TO A DATE WAS ITS BELIEF THAT THE WORK IN THE GENEVA SUB-GROUP WAS NOT BEING TREATED SERIOUSLY. THE COMMUNITY HAD WANTED TO CONCENTRATE AT GENEVA ON PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATION BUT THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN FOCUSING ON PROCEDURE. THE COMMUNITY WAS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH THIS, BUT AT THE END, AFTER PATTERSON HAD MADE A PROPOSAL FOR ARRANGING THE WORK PROGRAM (PARA E, REFTEL D), THERE HAD BEEN A DISPUTE OVER THE ADDITION OF SPECIFIC EXAMPLES. THE EGYPTIANS HAD PROPOSED A COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PATTERSON PROPOSAL WITH A STATEMENT THAT CERTAIN DELEGATIONS BELIEVED THAT FURTHER, LISTED, EXAMPLES SHOULD BE ADDED, BUT THE UNITED STATES WAS UNWILLING TO GO ALONG WITH THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, THE DISPUTE WAS ESSENTIALLY MUCH MORE FUNDAMENTAL THAN THIS DISCUSSION ABOUT WORDS. THE DISPUTE WAS ABOUT WHETHER GRAIN NEGOTIATIONS COULD GET UNDER WAY AT GENEVA WITHOUT PERPETUAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT PROCEDURE. UNTIL THE COMMUNITY FELT THAT THIS WAS POSSIBLE, IT DID NOT WISH TO AGREE TO FURTHER DATES FOR LONDON MEETINGS.

3. WE POINTED OUT THAT THIS KIND OF APPROACH WAS NOT IN THE SPIRIT OF THE MTN COMPROMISE ON THE HANDLING OF AGRICULTURE. THE GENEVA GRAINS GROUP HAD, AT THE COMMUNITY'S REQUEST, BEEN ESTABLISHED. IT WAS LABELED AS A NEGOTIATING GROUP AND HAD HELD ITS FIRST MEETING. IN IT THE EC HAD BEEN ABLE TO LAY OUT ITS IDEAS OF A COMMODITY AGREEMENT. TO BLOCK THE WORK IN LONDON BECAUSE OF WORDING PROBLEMS IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE GENEVA GRAINS GROUP WAS UNREASONABLE. IN ANY CASE THE US WAS NOT BEING INFLEXIBLE ON WORKING. WE HAD BEEN WILLING TO ACCEPT THE THREE PRINCIPAL CATEGORIES, PROVIDED NO EXAMPLES WERE INCLUDED. ON THE OTHER HAND WE WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE TYPE OF SUGGESTION MADE BY SOAMES IN THE MAY 29-30 US EC CONSULTATIONS THAT WE OMIT ALL TOPIC HEADINGS AND DISCUSS "ALL ASPECTS OF THE WORLD GRAINS SITUATION." WE ARGUED THAT IF EACH SIDE INSISTED ON HAVING A SPECIFIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEGREE OF PROGRESS IN ITS FAVORITE FORUM BEFORE AGREEING TO DATES FOR MEETINGS IN OTHER FORA, THE RESULT WAS GUARANTEED TO BE ZERO. THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY AGREED TO TWO FURTHER MEETINGS OF THE GENEVA GRAINS GROUP, ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNITY HAD ORIGINALLY INSISTED ON ONLY ONE SUCH MEETING TO TRIGGER ITS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN LONDON. WE URGED THAT THE COMMUNITY PROMPTLY AGREE TO A DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LONDON PREP GROUP. PIZZUTI SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO DO THAT ONCE THE WORK PROGRAM FOR THE GENEVA GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED, I.E., IF THE UNITED STATES WOULD

AGREE TO THE EGYPTIAN COMPROMISE PROPOSED AT GENEVA. WE
POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ASK THE US TO AGREE

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PASS AGRICULTURE

TO HAVE ITS SUGGESTED EXAMPLES TREATED AS SUBORDINATE TO
THE EXAMPLES LISTED IN THE PATTERSON PROPOSAL.

4. WE ALSO QUIZZED PIZZUTI ABOUT THE STATEMENT IN PARAGRAPH 5, REFTEL A, THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD NEED A NEW MANDATE TO NEGOTIATE ON GRAINS IN THE IWC CONTEXT. PIZZUTI RESPONDED THAT IT WAS INDEED TRUE THAT UNDER THE TREATY OF ROME FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS IN LONDON WOULD REQUIRE A COUNCIL MANDATE (ARTICLE 113). THE ONLY MANDATE WHICH THE COMMUNITY NOW HAS FOR NEGOTIATING ON GRAINS IS IN THE MTN CONTEXT AT GENEVA. HOWEVER, PIZZUTI SAID THAT A GREAT DEAL COULD BE DONE AT LONDON BEFORE NECESSARILY GOING TO THE COUNCIL FOR SUCH A FORMAL MANDATE. HE DID NOT CONSIDER THAT THIS WOULD BE A SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT TO COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION. HE THOUGHT THAT THE PROBLEM OF PROGRESS IN GENEVA WAS OF MUCH MORE IMPORTANCE AS A POTENTIAL PROBLEM.

5. WE THEN WENT TO HIJZEN TO EXPLAIN TO HIM THE PROBLEMS
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LYING AHEAD IF THE COMMUNITY SHOULD TRY TO BLOCK
THE LONDON WORK BECAUSE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH ONE OR
TWO MEETINGS IN GENEVA. THE FIRST MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE AND
WAS THE PRELIMINARY APPROACH TO A VERY COMPLICATED AND
IMPORTANT SUBJECT. IT WAS UNREALISTIC AND UNREASONABLE
TO EXPECT IT TO RESULT IN IMMEDIATE SUBSTANTIVE
NEGOTIATIONS. HIJZEN RESPONDED THAT HE VERY MUCH REGRETTED
THAT GENEVA HAD RUN INTO WORDING PROBLEMS, WHICH HARLDY
SEEMED SERIOUS. HE SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY HAD NOT YET
DECIDED HOW TO HANDLE THE JUNE 9 GRAINS MEETING IN GENEVA,
BUT THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING LATER THIS WEEK WITH HIS
COLLEAGUES IN THE AGRICULTURAL DIRECTORATE GENERAL TO
WORK THIS OUT. THOUGH HE COULD NOT YET PREDICT WHAT THE
COMMUNITY POSITION WOULD BE, HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO AVOID
POSITIONS WHICH LED TO A PROCEDURAL IMPASSE. HE CLOSED THE
CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT WE COULD EXPECT MANY SEVERE
US/COMMUNITY DISPUTES, BUT THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS
NEITHER THE TIME NOR WAS GRAINS PROCEDURE THE SUBJECT FOR
A MAJOR US/EC CONTROVERSY. HE SAID HE WOULD GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH
US AFTER HE HAD HAD A CHANCE TO TALK WITH HIS COLLEAGUES
IN THE AGRICULTURE DIRECTORATE GENERAL.

6. THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION HAS TOLD US THAT THEY TOO MET
ON THIS SUBJECT WITH RABOT, PIZZUTI AND JACQUOT, AND
INDICATED DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE COMMUNITY'S ACTIONS IN
LONDON. THEY MET THE SAME RESPONSE AS DID WE, THAT THE
COMMUNITY WAS WAITING FOR FURTHER INDICATIONS OF SERIOUS
DISCUSSIONS AT GENEVA BEFORE AGREEING TO A FURTHER DATE
FOR THE NEXT LONDON PREP GROUP, THAT AN AGREED-UPON WORK
PROGRAM FOR GENEVA WAS A SINE QUA NON FOR A LONDON DATE,
AND THAT THE LONDON NEGOTIATIONS WOULD EVENTUALLY REQUIRE A
COUNCIL MANDATE.

7. AFTER DRAFTING THE FOREGOING, WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY
TO REVIEW THE MATTER BRIEFLY WITH RABOT.
WE USED ARGUMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE USED WITH PIZZUTTI AND HIJZEN
EMPHASIZING OUR DISAPPOINTMENT AND CONCERN. WE PARTICULARLY
STRESSED THE FACT THAT, IN AN EFFORT TO MEET THE EC HALFWAY, THE
US HAD NOT ONLY AGREED TO ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GENEVA
GRAINS GROUP AS A "NEGOTIATING" BODY, BUT HAD AGREED TO
DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS. WE SAID WE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND
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WHY THE COMMISSION COULD NOT AGREE TO SCHEDULING THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LONDON GROUP AND URGED THAT THE COMMISSION MOVE PROMPTLY ON THIS. RABOT SAID THAT HE REGRETTED THE DISPUTE OVER LANGUAGE IN GENEVA WHICH HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT HAD BEEN THE FAULT OF BOTH SIDES. HE HOPED THE SITUATION COULD BE STRAIGHTENED OUT, AND SAID THAT, DESPITE CONTINUING EC "SUCPICIONS" ABOUT US WILLINGNESS TO GO AHEAD WITH SERIOUS WORK IN GENEVA, HE WOULD CONSIDER OUR AGRUMENTS RE LONDON MEETING AND WOULD PERHAPS BE BACK TO US EARLY NEXT WEEK. GREENWALD

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Draft Date: 05 JUN 1975
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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